VIETNAM COURIER

December 9 1968 No. 194 5th Year

Information Weekly — E.O. : 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

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By C.L. from South Viet Nam

South Viet Nam

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■ Around Loc Ninh : 700 Enemy Troops Put Out of Action, 60 Armoured Cars Destroyed in Three Days (Nov. 27 - Nov. 29)

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"EMERGENCY PACIFICATION PROGRAMME" OR U.S.-PUPPET DEATH-BED ENDEAVOUR

OVER the past to years, with a whole range of attempts from the Staley-Taylor plan to Westmoreland's strategic two-pronged strategy, the U.S. aggressors have been striving to "pacify" South Viet Nam, but all to no avail. Now, to save their hopeless situation, they are bending all their energies in a new effort—the "emergency pacification programme" code-named Operation Eagle.

Washington's ambitious schemes are to break the "Viet Cong infra-structure", re-impose the control of the puppet administration over the rural areas and thereby strengthen allied (U.S. and puppet) position on the battlefield and at the conference table. This calls for substantial and quick work and in the immediate future, pacification should be brought to fruition before February 1969 in the two key areas: Saigon's outer fringe and the stretch of land from Quang Nam to the 17th parallel.

In implementation of this programme, the Americans and their lackeys have mustered swarms of aircraft, including B.52's, artillery and warships against these areas, including Saigon's suburbs. They have concentrated troops in series of raids to destroy crops and demolish houses, to massacre civilians and herd others into re-grouping areas.

LIKE their ill-fated predecessors, the U.S. "emergency pacification programme" is ridden with contradictions and carries in it the seeds of insuccess.

It is a common knowledge that for the U.S. to pacify South Viet Nam's countryside, it is imperative to "break the Viet Cong backbone" and wipe out the revolutionary forces. Yet, after three years or so, the U. S. "search-and-destroy" strategy has gone bankrupt. One million-odd U.S.-puppet troops have had to pull back on a passively defensive position, in anticipation of a knock-out blow right in the cities. In such circumstances, how can they re-deploy their forces into the rural areas for successful pacification? Tens of thousands of U.S.-puppet troops digging in have been hard hit and sustained serious losses. If they are now spread thin and split into small detachments for "pacification" purposes, how can they dodge devastating blows from the South Vietnamese armed forces and people?

As the puppet army is crumbling, its morale at its lowest ebb, defeatism rampant within its ranks and mutinies increasing at an accelerating rate, where can it find enough combat strength to shoulder the heavy responsibility entrusted to it by its American bosses? What is more, the key pacification areas are the hottest areas where the revolutionary forces—armed and political—have grown up and are well experienced. Therefore, by thinning out their forces to carry out their "emergency

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NEW U.S. BOMBINGS OF QUANG BINH AND VIOLATIONS OF DRVN TERRITORY

ON Nov. 27, 1968 five F.4 warplanes of the U.S. dropped explosive and steel pellet bombs on the villages of Ly Ninh, Bao Ninh and Hien Ninh in Quang Binh province.

On Nov. 25 and 26, 1968, U.S. marines conducted a terror raid in the southern part of the Demilitarized Zone, causing losses in lives and property to the local population.

On Dec. 2, 1968, again many waves of U.S. F.4 jet fighters intruded into the airspace of the DRVN and bombed heavily populated areas in Hien Ninh, Le Ninh, Luong Ninh and Vinh Ninh villages, Quang Ninh district, Quang Binh province, killing or wounding many farmers in the fields. On the same day, F.4 planes of the U.S. also struck at Vinh Ha and inflicted casualties and damage on the local population.

On Dec. 3, 1968, many U.S. aircraft repeatedly encroached upon the airspace of the DRVN. On the same day, U.S. artillery from the Southern part of the Demilitarized Zone and the warship *New Jersey* fired many salvoes on the northern part of the DMZ. Four F.4 planes bombed Quang Phuc, Bac Trach and Thanh Trach villages, in Bo Trach district, Quang Binh province, causing many losses in lives and property to the local population.

Thus, since it had to cease unconditionally its bombardments on the DRVN, the U.S. has been indulging in serious acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and violating the Demilitarized Zone.

Stubbornly carrying on reconnaissance flights and using the utterly absurd pretext of rescuing pilots that had been shot down, the U.S. bombed and strafed Quang Binh on Nov. 25 and 26, 1968, and cynically attacked several areas in the same province on Nov. 27 and Dec. 2.

After shelling the southern Demilitarized zone, then bombarding the northern Demilitarized Zone, the U.S. brazenly sent troops to massacre civilians right in the Demilitarized zone on Nov. 25 and 26, 1968.

These very serious acts show that the U.S. has been increasing its encroachments upon the sovereignty and security of the DRVN and

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HEMISPHERIC CONFERENCE FULLY SUPPORTS FIGHTING VIET NAM

A three-day "Hemispheric Conference to End the Viet Nam War" was held in Montreal, Canada, from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1, 1968.

It was attended by 2,000 delegates from Latin American countries, the United States and Canada, and by the Vietnamese people's delegation led by Hoang Minh Giam, Deputy to the DRVN National Assembly, and the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation's delegation headed by Hoang Bich Son, Member of the Front's Central Committee.

At the closing session, 100 young Americans went up to the rostrum and burnt their draft cards amid a rousing applause.

A resolution was passed on November 30, 1968, strongly condemning the criminal war of aggression waged by the U.S. over the past 14 years against the Vietnamese people, and voicing warm support to the Vietnamese people's struggle to defend their fundamental national rights.

The Vietnamese people's struggle constitutes a great contribution to the common struggle of the world's people for freedom, peace, and social progress, the resolution stressed, adding:

The fact that the United States has had to put an unconditional halt to its bombardements on the whole territory of the DRVN and to engage in talks with the South Viet Nam NFL on the questions concerning South Viet Nam is a great victory for the Vietnamese people and at the same time a great success for the peoples of the Western Hemisphere and progressive mankind. This also vividly testifies to the strength of justice in our time.

The resolution called on the peoples in the Western hemisphere, especially the people of the United States to carry on actions for a complete cessation of the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam, and to effectively support the Vietnamese people in the moral, political and material fields and under various forms.

The resolution called on public opinion in the Western Hemisphere to strongly condemn the U.S. Government's war of aggression against Viet Nam, and demanded that the U.S. stop all violations of the sovereignty and security of the DRVN, withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops and war means from South Viet Nam, dismantle the U.S. military bases there, and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs in accordance with the Political Program of the South Viet Nam NFL. Peaceful reunification of Viet Nam must be decided by the entire Vietnamese people without foreign interference, the resolution emphasized.

The Conference firmly believe that with their valiant and persistent struggle, and with the sympathy and support from the peoples in the Western Hemisphere and the world over, the Vietnamese people would certainly bring to success their glorious fight, thus contributing to the common struggle of mankind for peace and progress, the resolution added.

The Saigon Puppet and the Paris Parley

AFTER four weeks of frantic efforts to block the opening of the Paris Conference and demurring with their U.S. master the Thieu Ky-Huong clique finally had on November 27 to come round and announced that they would send a delegation to the Conference. All this supplies a further proof of the blind alley in which the U.S. and its servants have landed.

In making public their half-hearted decision, the Saigon regime implicitly admitted that they could no longer ignore the popular movement for restoration of peace which was gaining momentum in the South Viet Nam towns and cities, and the yearning for peace of the troops of the puppet army and personnel of the puppet administration. Under the impact of the disaster of the traitors' chieftains, the puppet administration and army which had been shaken from top to bottom have become still crankier. In fact, during their bargaining with their U.S. masters the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique openly admitted: « Do you know what will happen if we face the National Front for Liberation at the Paris Conference table? More than one-fourth of our main force units, the whole 'civil guard' and popular forces will desert, that is in the region of 100,000 men in all. They will return to their native villages because no one wants to stay in the ranks of the loser. »

The Saigon puppets presence in Paris would evidently bring into bolder relief the just cause and supremacy of the NFL, the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people, the organizer and leader of the South Vietnamese people's war of resistance against the U.S. aggressors and for national salvation, the greatest to date in the nation's history, which has won the admiration and support of the whole progressive mankind.

Once in Paris the Saigon puppets would try to play the "leading" role, but their antics would only further reveal their subservience to the United States since, as Senator Mansfield has rightly put it, "*the tail cannot wag the dog.*"

Also most remarkable thing is that the troika of traitors, the "Senate", and "Lower House", the "President's office", the "Premier's office", various factions and even various "ministries" of the Saigon regime have been jockeying for nearly a month now for a seat in the "delegation", for the trip to Paris is likely to be a lucrative jaunt. The result was that a large gang had to be appointed so that they can control, and compete with, one another. And the band leader will be no one else than gangster Nguyen Cao Ky, who has once declared Hitler his idol.

There is speculation that this is a trick on the part of puppet President Nguyen Van Thieu to shift onto his aide and chief rival Nguyen Cao Ky the brunt of the condemnation of world public opinion, and at the same time to have a free hand in carrying on his purge of more men of the Ky clique.

Though they have had to agree to attend the Paris parley, like their U.S. masters they remain very obdurate. They still cling to the "bilateral" formula, and persist in their opposition to a coalition government in South Viet Nam, and in fact are not prepared to quickly restore peace and to give up their aggressive and treasonous schemes.

Meanwhile, the U.S. aggressors continue to step up their reconnaissance flights over North Viet Nam and have even threatened to resume the bombing while pushing up their atrocious war in the South. They are speeding up forcible conscription and the herding of the South Viet Nam population into concentration camps and strategic hamlets. Nguyen Van Thieu continues his bellicose ravings and has repeated his pledge of allegiance to the U.S.

The experience of the past many years of struggle has shown the Vietnamese people that with regard to the stubborn aggressors and traitors, they will accept defeat only when they have been completely outwitted, that the snake will be harmless only when its head has been crushed, that only by carrying the day in the fierce politico-military struggle can the people recover their genuine independence and freedom.

Hanoi Press...

A SEVERE WARNING TO U.S. AGGRESSORS

THE U.S. aggressors have, since November 1st, 1968, continually sabotaged the security of the DRVN. From giving themselves the right to conduct reconnaissance flights over North Viet Nam, using "suppressive" fire in rescuing downed pilots to brazenly bombing and strafing our people, the U.S. imperialists have expressed their obdurate and bellicose features before the public.

The bombardments by the *New Jersey* and U.S. artillery of the northern half of the demilitarized zone and bombing raids by U.S. planes on Quang Binh province on December 3 and other serious acts of war show the U.S. imperialists' increase of cynicism in their violations of the sovereignty and security of the DRVN and their impudent disregard for progressive public opinion in the United States and the world.

But the U.S. aggressors are at the end of their tether. No plots nor acts of the U.S. can intimidate our people and prevent them from achieving complete final victory. These fresh crimes of the U.S. aggressors only fan up the anger of our people and stiffen and enhance our will to fight. Our armed forces and people severely warn the U.S. aggressors that no matter what means they use — aircraft, artillery or war ships — no matter where they come from, and no matter what purpose they pursue — reconnaissance, rescuing downed pilots or bombing — the U.S. aggressors will meet with due punishment from our armed forces and people.

Stubbornly continuing its acts of provocation and sabotage against North Viet Nam, the U.S. will only receive the consequences arising therefrom.

QUAN DOI NHAN DAN
(*People's Army*) Dec. 6 1968

New U.S. bombings...

(*Continued from page 1*)

multiplying its criminal acts against the Vietnamese people, insolently challenging progressive public opinion in the United States and in the rest of the world.

In three successive statements on Nov. 30, Dec. 3 and Dec. 5, the spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry denounced in strong terms to world public opinion the above criminal violations and demanded that the U.S. stop them immediately.

"The U.S. must bear full responsibility for all consequences arising from their aggressive acts," the spokesman stressed.

Emergency Pacification...

(*Continued from page 1*)

pacification programme", the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys have in fact been weakening their own forces and have exposed their Achillet's heel to the sharp spear of the people's war.

On the other hand, as claimed by the U.S., the chief objective of the "pacification programme" has been to "win the hearts of the people". But it advocates most atrocious methods and therefore is likely to further antagonize the South Vietnamese people and exacerbate their hatred for the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, give a greater impulse to the revolutionary struggle, and put the South Vietnamese people in their victorious mettle in the high tide of their current generalized attacks and uprisings.

As a matter of fact, the US "new "pacification programme" has met with abysmal failure as soon as it was put into operation.

Military developments show that the U.S.-puppet troops have been trounced right in their key pacification areas: Saigon's outer fringe and the stretch of land from Quang Nam to the 17th parallel. In the 10 days ending Nov. 25 alone, countering U.S.-puppet "pacification" operations, the PLAF in Dien Ban district (Quang Nam province) wiped out 900 adverse troops, including more than 350 U.S. and satellite soldiers, captured a number of GI's, shot down 18 aircraft, damaged 7 military vehicles including three M.113 armoured personnel carriers, and blew up 9 blockhouses and 5 bridges and culverts.

Meanwhile, the political struggle is gaining momentum. Everywhere, in the urban as in the rural areas still under enemy control, people have risen up, punishing thugs, breaking the enemy's grip and establishing people's revolutionary power. While the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys are still unable to gain control of new hamlets, a series of old "strategic hamlets" has been shattered. The liberated zone has been further enlarged. People's revolutionary power has been set up in many district towns and provincial capitals and even in a number of districts of major cities — the last hide-outs of the aggressors and the traitors.

"The emergency pacification programme", which has been given much publicity by the U.S.-puppet propaganda machine as a new stage of improvement and a meaningful change is, in fact, a desperate endeavour as they are at the end of the tether.

...Opinion

Read
VIETNAMESE STUDIES
n° 18—19:
SOUTH VIET NAM : DATA AND PROSPECTS

OVER 1,000 LOCAL INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES SET UP IN WAR TIME

OVER the past four years, despite hard wartime conditions, while succeeding in maintaining production in centrally-run industrial enterprises (1), North Viet Nam has paid particular attention to the promotion of local industry and handicrafts. Over one thousand local industrial enterprises and more than 2,500 new handicraft co-operatives have been set up, which have given a strong help to industrial development.

The network of mechanical engineering workshops has now extended to districts and villages. In various localities, several branches which were formerly nonexistent such as engineering, hydraulic and thermic energy, chemistry, cement, building materials and construction of transport means, have come into being. Key branches of local industry such as engineering, chemistry, textile industry, food industry have been constantly forging ahead.

Local engineering workshops have received new machines with a higher degree of precision.

Local industry has actively contributed to the development of national economy in 1966, the total output by local industry of products for agriculture increased by 72 per cent in comparison with 1964.

In the past two years, local industry has turned out 500,000 farm tools of various types, a quantities higher than in the previous two years put together. It has also provided over 16,000 machines to 5,500 engineering workshops belonging to agricultural cooperatives.

At present, local engineering workshops possess small foundries and are able to produce machine tools, electric motors, Diesel machines, transformers, motor launches, tugs and other machines and equipment which formerly were made only by some industrial centres.

Chemical industry can produce graphite and various acids; food industry, gourmet powder and various food products of high quality; phamaceutical industry, various medicines made of local raw materials.

Contrary to what happened in the past, local industrial enterprises and handicraft co-operatives are operating everywhere in North Viet Nam, in the lowlands as well as in the midlands and highlands.

20 industrial enterprises have been opened in Quang Binh province which practically possessed no industry before 1964. In spite of ever more violent air and naval bombardments, they have provided the population with nearly 40 kinds of consumer goods and means of production.

In 1967, the value of the total industrial output in Hoa Binh, a mountain province, grew by 33.5 per cent and investments in the construction of industrial enterprises increased threefold in comparison with 1965. Hoa Binh has built 22 small hydro-electric stations.

On the average, an industrial enterprise is put into operation every month in Haiphong. In Hanoi, the value of industrial articles supplied in 1967 to agriculture, communications and transport rose by 4.21—8 per cent in comparison with 1965.

Over the past four years, along with the expansion of local industry, tens of thousands of skilled workers and technical cadres have been trained, not to speak of tens of thousands of co-op farmers instructed to use machines in small engineering workshops.

(1) *Certain branches of industry of capital importance to the development of the economic and military potential have been growing ever more rapidly.*

NEWS IN BRIEF

- In 1967, the output value of small-scale engineering and metal works of small industry and handicraft increased by 43.4 per cent in comparison with 1964. The rise in wood and paper production was 8 per cent and that in transport means 11.6 per cent.

The value of small industry and handicraft output accounted for 54.1 per cent of the total value of local industrial output and 28 per cent of that of industrial and handicraft output.

Many consumer goods such as pottery, porcelain, glass, wooden articles, rush mats, wicker articles, mosquito netting etc... have chiefly been produced by small industry and handicraft.

In nearly all provinces, small industry and handicrafts also provide small machines and various tools to agriculture; rice threshers, insecticide sprayers, weeders...

- 174 teams of agricultural production have been awarded the title of "Socialist labour Team" by the Government Council.

- The 8th Shooting Contest under the auspices of the National Committee of Sport and Physical Culture was held. 50 of the 130 participants were women.

Phu Thuong (Hai Hung province) co-op members start ploughing the fields as soon as rice is harvested

War-time way of Life maintained at co-op N.

(VINH LINH)

THE road to co-op N. no longer laced through deep bomb craters and the visitor could now ride rather comfortably on a straight and even road. The numerous holes on the roadsides had been filled up, and the farmers had planted there a great variety of vegetables and fruit trees. The managing commitee had planned to do this in one month or more, but in only three weeks after President Ho Chi Minh's appeal the co-op farmers completed the job. Without talking with the local population, one could hardly imagine that the village had been the target of twelve B.52 raids apart from other bombings and hundreds of artillery shellings.

In the fields, every plot of land had been levelled and was filled with water. All the boundaries had been weeded. Plough men groups were working diligently behind their buffaloes or oxen. The gardens were covered with straight rows of sweet-potatoes, or green patches of vegetables or verdant cucurbitaceous plants. Against this background of luxuriant crops one could notice the freshly repaired communication trenches and air-raid shelters. The determination of the co-op farmers had been made transparent in the slogan written in whitewash on a board bearing at least a dozen bomb-splinter scratches and planted carefully right at the village entrance: "Vigorously push up the Winter-Spring production campaign, firmly keep up the war-time way of life."

On the field, the water conservancy team in the charge of Nguyen Van Tho which had just completed broadening a culvert now started building another bridge. The building material was contributed by the co-op farmers themselves, one a coil of wire, an other some bamboo sticks or a few half-burnt pillars. In the last four years the U.S. had dropped an uncountable quantity of bombs on the site of the former bridge without being able to prevent the co-op farmers from working their fields. In 1968, the peak year of U.S. bombing, the co-op sold to the State more than 1 ton of surplus rice, 20 tons of cassava roots and sweet potatoes, 40 tons of vegetables and a sizable quantity of poultry and pork. The building of a new bridge is aimed at immediate as well as long range goals. For the time being, it will help transport fertilizer more quickly to the field for the summer cultivation. On the other hand, in the event of a resumption of the U.S. bombing in North Viet Nam, the bridge would facilitate the fight against enemy planes. The villages had stored beside the bridge the necessary materials for repairs in case of enemy attack so as to keep traffic open in all circumstances.

The manure-preparing teams of young women Ly and Nguyen or young men Mao and Tap had raised their efficiency in picking green leaves from 200 kilos to 400 kilos per work-day. They had also come to an understanding among themselves that no one should strip the trees near the gun sites or in the areas under the battle plan of the militia. Wherever they saw a damaged mud fort, the leaf-picking teams immediately set to repair it.

Throughout the years of bitter fighting against enemy planes, 40-year-old Nguyen Kham always he t the cattle herd of the co-op in the best condition. Now, in the new and more favourable situation he volunteered to tend two more buffaloes for the co-op. Never did he let any of the six beasts entruted to his care tread upon a fortification or communication trench. Every time a buffalo approached a mud fort, Nguyen Kham rushed to it, patted it on its backand admonished like ita friend: "No, don't. The Yanks are still in the South and have put opened provocative fire on the northern bank. It is not yet time to pull down our defence works!"

The hog-raising team headed by Nguyen Thi Tao never ceased trying to improve the way to get the hogs more quickly into safety against aircraft. The same sense of urgency and combat-readiness was observed at the tree-planting group of Old Quang, Hau, Hoa..., who, in only 15 days of emulation to respond to President Ho's call, had planted twenty thousand trees of various kinds. In the areas close to the gun-sites they put trees that easily strike roots. Where a tree belt was needed to protect the crops from strong winds they used big, perennial trees which were already higher, than a man's height. The U.S. bombings had destroyed more than thirty thousand seedlings in their nursery. The old men were striving to plan 110,000 trees under the 1969 plan to help production and the fighting.

Even in each family, although the pattern of life had changed as a result of the bombing hail, there was not a sign of slackening in the war-time way of life. First-aid kits, jars of salt and fish pickle and other reserve foods, bundles of clothes, covers, sleeping mats, spades, rice bellbags, camouflage devices ...everything had been kept ready in their proper places. Thing had been bought or made to replenish their sets and what was not solid or lasting made stronger. The tool-repairing team taken charge of by Thuoc and Le had just completed the repair of three carts and also two supports for machineguns. It was common to hear this remark in the daily talk of the co-op farmers: "Now that we can provide for ourselves better, so we must do everything to increase our preparedness.'

The villagers eagerly discussed the experience in civil defence as well as in the fight against enemy planes and drew relevant conclusions. Every three days after lunch time, the militia squads would check the weapons and every other thing necessary to an eventual engagement. And every five days, the leader of each production brigade would go to each house to report on the labour contributions of the co-op members and also to take a look into the air raid shelters and the way people were carrying on, to see if the tasks assigned to the stretcher-bearer group, the rescue team, the "three guard" team (guard against enemy raids, fires and natural calamities - Ed) were properly seen to. There were two parallel plans for the co-op and every production brigade, one in normal condition when there was no air raids, and the other, in the event of the resumption of bombing. Both plans had been put to thorough discussions among the co-op members. As a result, in only three weeks of the emulation drive to "respond to Uncle Ho's call and do our best for our southern hith-and-hin" the co-op had put 105 "mau" under summer rice, trebled the area under sweet potatoes, cassava, vegetables and other subsidiary crops. In their daily way of life, the co-op farmers always stood ready, resolved to contribute together with the people in the country to translate into deeds President Ho Chi Minh's words: "So long as a single aggressors remains in our country, we must continua the fight and wipe him out".

The Americans and Puppets Fight Last-ditch Struggle

(by C.L. from South Viet Nam)

(Continued from last issue)

III – U.S. SCHEME, A CERTAIN COMPLETE FLOP!

WHATEVER level their hysteria may reach, the U.S. aggressors can in no way get out of their impasse because their sinister designs serve a lost cause.

The fallibility of their new strategic schemes lies first of all in the fact that these have been prompted by **sweak and losing posture.** The Americans elaborated them amidst an utter loss of the initiative and heavy serious setbacks, both military and political, and at a time when they had to make up their minds to an inescapable down-grade turn.

Wicked and brutal as they are, these schemes however turn out to be more adventurous counter-attacks meant to pary the blows while their authors face an overall offensive in the military, political, economic and diplomatic fields, come under attack in Viet Nam in the world and right in the U.S., and are sliding into the most serious political and military isolation and economic decline ever known.

In their present impasse and disarray, what panacea can they find against the innumerable difficulties that have cropped up around them?

Their *"clear-and-hold"* strategy is unquestionably one of passive defense and marks a major step backward in the military field. It is the offspring of past defeats and the harbinger of **big future setbacks.**

In the past the U.S. aggressors incessantly escalated the war: from 20,000 military advisers, they had to raise their troops strength to more than half a million men; instead of winning in 18 months as they had hoped they experienced, for years, one failure after another; **beaten in the South, they had to bring the war to the North. After bitter setbacks, American war-makers are at loggerheads with one another. They blame Johnson for not using their military force massively and in adequate doses at the very outset but merely escalating drop by drop. A question arises: why has the U.S had to escalate the war rung by rung?**

Is it because Johnson does not want a quick victory, does not want to subdue our people through savage bombing and shelling? No. He does want, but one thing is clear, namely that the U.S. aggressors have underestimated the miraculous vitality of the Vietnamese nation which has thwarted all their calculations and turned every escalation of theirs into a move taken out of passivity.

They believed that their air power was enough to bring our people to their knees. They thought that their 20,000 military advisers, dollars and weapons were enough to overwhelm our revolutionary force. They expected that their 200,000, then 400,000 troops were enough to inflict defeat on our armed forces and people. Facts, however, have fallen far short of their expectation. Therefore, at the present juncture in which they have tumbled down from the war ladder with a crippled Expeditionary corps, will they succeed in winning the war with their passive *"clear-and-hold"* strategy? This strategy is a mishmash of plans for city defense, building of enclaves to bolt communication lines, police operations, clearing missions, detection and preventive actions designed to forestall our offensives, bombing raids, and destruction of our rear-line with aircraft and artillery, especially with B.52's, etc... This hotchpotch does not agree with the ailing U.S.-puppet war machine because it gives rise to a series of **irreconcilable contradictions** — between concentration and dispersion, between static defence and mobility, between very great combat needs and limited troop build-up, poor combativity, low morale and badly coordinated organisation, and between the need to conceal the neo-colonialist nature of the U.S. aggressors and their military brutality, etc... Undoubtedly the U.S. and its puppets can *"clear"* the place and *"hold"* nothing. The great victories won in quick succession by the armed forces and people of Saigon — Cholon, Gia Dinh, Khe Sanh, Da Nang, Tay Ninh and other parts of South Viet Nam have thrown too bright a light on U.S. failure. The *"clear-and-hold"* strategy has suffered an initial setback right after its birth. No U.S. strategy can get the better of the people's war strategy.

The so-called **"de-Americanisation" of the war is a Utopian scheme.** How can the U.S. aggressors beef up the puppet army to the point it can replace U.S. troops and carry the whole war burden when the anti-draft movement is sweepingly rising and when the puppet troops are disrupted and their morale is sinking?

If M.16 rifles, quick-firing guns, modern tanks and aircraft had been of great help in bolstering up the morale and fighting power of the puppet troops as expected by the U.S., there would not have been such a U.S. predicament as the present one.

Why today have American strategists and brasshats of the Pentagon had to do unorthodox things such as subordinating the infantry to fire and air power and using B.52's as general reserves necessary for all theatres of operation? It is because the U.S. puppet foot-soldiers have become useless. As a rule each time they encounter the PLAF, they immediately take to flight and call for air and artillery support. That is why, with more than one million troops at their disposal, the U.S. aggressors remain powerless in face of PLAF attacks. That is why U.S. commanders simply hope to save their troops with the use of fire power.

Western public opinion has more than once wryly commented that the puppet army and administration would not last one day if it were not for U.S. bayonets. This is a reality already confirmed by the near annihilation of the puppet army in 1965 when the PLAF were still very young.

Today, the hard fact is that without swarms of B.52's, without thousands of howitzers and tanks and thousands of aircraft of different types, the professional U.S. Army too would have collapsed under our heroic PLAF blows.

Ben Cat young girls preparing outfits for PLAF fighters

IN politics, the U.S. is also building castles in the air. Formerly, even though it had the service of such notorious agents as the Diem brothers and a series of topnotch lackeys, it still failed in its political objectives in South Viet Nam, to the point that Johnson was censured for not having applied an adequate political dose. Was it because Johnson had not played all his political trumps? And today, with the new political intrigues just enumerated, has he already prescribed the adequate political dose?

Thieu and Ky are licensed traitors to the nation, creatures of the U.S. produced through fraudulent elections to keep up its neo-colonialist effort. The so-called "National Assembly", "Senate" and "House of Representatives" are packs of puppets whose only concern is to make money by all corrupt means they can devise. Their "constitution" is merely a scrap of paper picked from the "anti-communist" and vicious, demagogic and reactionary dustbins in the world. Masters and servants are at odds with each other and the traitors try to cut one another's throat. They are spat at by the entire Vietnamese people. They represent nobody. They are despised by the whole of progressive mankind and their "diplomatic missions" are looked upon as rings of political beggars, smugglers and speculators.

They want to match servitude camouflaged by a faked prosperity and a sham democracy with the great credit and resplendent justice of the NFL and the growing influence of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces. They are merely day-dreaming. If with all their brutality and savagery they could win over and subdue the South Vietnamese people, it would never have happened that the Ngo Dinh Diem dictatorial regime crumbled at the time when the South Viet Nam revolution was still encircled and under heavy pressure. It is thus clear that Washington has tried all the political remedies made in U.S.A. Yet it had failed in duping an experienced people, a people with a glorious record of resistance against foreign aggression, a people deeply jealous of their right to independence and freedom, a people united and single-minded in their struggle. It is precisely because of all this that Johnson and Co. have fruitlessly used up their bag of tricks.

The germ of the failure of the new strategic schemes of the U.S. imperialists not only is inherent in their utterly gloomy subjective situation, but also has been aggravated by very dangerous objective factors. Essentially, they are confronted with a **tough adversary** favoured by popular support, familiar terrain and climate.

Thu Dau Mot Province medical workers attending to people in a newly liberated area.

The South Vietnamese armed forces and people have been fighting the U.S. aggressors with the wisdom of a wealth of experiences accumulated in the course of their long **struggles against foreign aggression,** their anti-French Resistance, and in the very process of their relentless fight against the U.S. aggressors for over a decade.

They have been fighting the U.S. aggressors in the condition of **the North, a half** of the Viet Nam nation, completely liberated, and growing in strength under the socialist regime and becoming **the steady base of the nation-wide revolution.**

They have been fighting the U.S. aggressors in the context of growing predominance of the forces of the **socialist camp, the world's revolutionary and peace forces** over the **reactionary, trigger happy imperialist forces,** and of the world revolution being on the **offensive.**

They have been fighting the U.S. aggressors at a time when the U.S., as the leading and most powerful imperialist power of the capitalist world, has exposed more and more its basic weaknesses in the process of the general crisis of world capitalism weakened by the haemorrhage of the Viet Nam war.

Confronted with an adversary possessing an aggloomerate strength, very abundant and constantly expanding, the U.S. aggressors will eventually invite masters whose gravity will be proportionate to their stubbornness.

THE South Vietnamese armed forces and people have a remarkably correct **political and military line**; their cause is a just one; their fighting **determination** is as solid as the Vietnamese Long-Range and their **bloc of national union** is unshakable. This is an inexhaustible source of strength, which helps develop our might and resourcefulness and strengthen our rear. These factors have been prompting our versatile and creative people's war lines, guiding principles, strategies and tactics which are fully capable of foiling any strategy of a war of aggression.

Rushing irresistibly forward in the flush of their successes, making all-out efforts and bringing into full play their sweeping force fired by the sublime **Vietnamese revolutionary heroism,** the South Vietnamese armed forces and people are resolved to step up their generalised offensives and uprisings with an earth-shaking impetus and iron-like confidence.

In this life-and-death struggle, we should absolutely neither nurture the least illusion nor relax our efforts for a single second. Let us display our courage and boldness on all fronts and win through all difficulties and hardships to achieve the greatest and fullest success.

All for the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, combatants and fellow-country men of the South forward!

We shall win!

Saigon Press Reports on South Viet Nam Education Sad Plight

EDUCATION in the areas under the U.S. and puppets in South Viet Nam is in a sad plight. This cannot but be alarming, morally and materially, for members of the "teaching staff" in U.S.-puppet pay. As in the past, the press in Saigon continues to give a quite clear picture of the American-patterned education, the chaotic situation in the schools and the precarious life of the teachers in South Viet Nam.

Le Minh Tri, Secretary of Edution of the Saigon administration, is reported by *Reuter* in a dispatch from Saigon on November 17 to have described vocational and technical education in South Viet Nam as "very deplorable." He conceded that education was appropriated only 5% of the annual budget and, with such a paltry sum, "there can be no way to more vocational and technical schools."

In reality, not only vocational and technical education but the whole education system under the U.S.-puppet regime is suffering the same plight. On orders from their U.S. masters, the Thieu-Ky clique have been taking harsher repressive measures against pupils and students, arrested many teachers and students and even closed down many schools to supply more food for U.S. powder. Of late, the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique have also sought to discard a number of teachers and replaced them by secret agents in the guise of "professors" with a view to tightening their control over and eventually stamping out the struggle of the students in the towns and cities of South Viet Nam.

The *Than Chung*, a Saigon paper, wrote: "Here is a picture pregnant with significance: a crazy shanty with a signboard "school" sandwiched between two rows of tall buildings consisting on one side of bars and night clubs and on the other, shops and dancing houses. It may be a realistic picture but it is indeed one of gloom, first and foremost for the teachers." The paper stressed that apart from the shortage of schools and classrooms, the students and pupils in South Viet Nam have fallen prey to the U.S.-made pornographic literature displayed at every bookstall on the street-side and sold at dirt cheap prices. The paper went on: "The teachers are asking that they be provided with facilities to educate the children so that the school becomes a real centre of education, not a noisy market place where knowledge is merely a commodity."

On the life of teachers, the *Chinh Luan* wrote: "The teaching profession in the provinces and the capital only brings many teachers, men and women, a subsistence salary. The more the social values are upset, the lower the teachers sink in the scale... Each night as they lie listening to the roaring cannons they get the impression that each shell fired off is shattering another shred of their hope to earn some bread tomorrow. Their existence has become increasingly precarious because not many of them have been lucky. In the last few weeks, the teachers have been trying to find some balm for their destitution in the cannonade. For many teachers, though their homes are not yet burned down, their purses have been lost. Some get their homes and purses reduced to ashes at the same time. Yet they are called on to take part in relief work. But who will give them relief?"

The teachers, students and pupils in South Viet Nam cities and towns are putting up a staunch and widespread struggle. Together with people of other strata they are militating for "cessation of the war", "restoration of peace", "withdrawal of the Americans," "overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong government", and formation of a broad national and democratic coalition government, since only in such conditions can education in South Viet Nam extricate itself from the present predicament.

Editor's note. — *The world has heard a lot about the low morale, the savagery and also the corruption of the Saigon puppet army, the so-called "Republican Army" of South Viet Nam. The following story is an illustration of this. The time: the Tết general offensives and simultaneous uprisings by the P.L.A.F. and people of South Viet Nam. The place: the Fifth Ward, Saigon city.*

DUMB people are usually said to be also deaf. It's not my case. I have a very sharp hearing. And that is why I was sent to the madhouse.

It all happened one late afternoon a few months ago. We were having dinner when a chopper flew very low over the roofs. As we looked at each other in anguish a loudspeaker started blaring forth, "Attention, attention! Listen to an urgent order. The Vietcong have infiltrated into the Fifth Ward. The Joint Command orders everybody out of the area before six o'clock."

The exodus began. Military police were pouring in. People fled the place as if mad dogs were after them. They went away practically empty-handed, because of the short notice. They jostled, pushed; children fell...

The Gold Watch

"How unfortunate!" my mother was wailing, "I never forgot to take it with me wherever I went. And yet this afternoon I left it on top of the cupboard..."

"Never mind, Mum," my father said, "the important thing now is our safety. Everything will still be there when we can come back."

I knew they were referring to the watch, a keepsake my father had presented my mother with, a long time ago, when they were sweethearts. And so I decided to go back to the house before the fighting broke out, to try and retrieve that thing so dear to my parents.

I scaled the wall and got into the house through the kitchen. Just then brakes screeched; a car was stopping right in front. The door was kicked open. I hastily hid in a corner. Men stepped in with flashlights and started looking for the lamp switch.

When the light was on, I saw a thin man in an oversized uniform, the commander probably.

"Here's a wardrobe," he said. "Take it."

Two policemen, for now I could see their police uniforms, ambled along to the wardrobe, which stood rather close to the place where I was hiding. With their knives they tried to pry it open.

Their hairy hands were getting at it like a wild beast's paws at a human body. One left his knife and looked around for something which might do the job better, a crowbar perhaps.

Just then a jeep pulled up in front of the house, and two men stepped in. The men in the room immediately sprang to attention in the thin commander stammered, "General, sir..."

The general was a tall and corpulent man, with a fair complexion and gentle manners. The air of gentleness and honesty about him was even enhanced by a few wrinkles on his forehead, whenever he looked displeased. A man of virtue, most certainly. Even those most prejudiced against him could not think otherwise.

His presence reassured me. I had half a mind to leave my place of hiding and come out and greet him. But I decided to stay where I was.

The watch was lying on top of the cupboard, its gold shining. Within a matter of minutes, I would get it, and take it back to my mother. This would bring tears of happiness to her eyes.

"Now I know," the general was saying in a severe voice, "now I know why the Vietcong have been able to sneak into our capital city." He pointed an accusing finger at the knives stuck into the wardrobe. "Perhaps," he continued with icy irony, "you'd thought some VC were hiding in it?"

The police commander again stammered, "General, Sir..."

But this cut no ice with the general. "Tell me, lieutenant," he asked "are you the man in charge of security in this ward?"

"General, Sir... I..."

"Am I to understand that this is the way your men have been conducting themselves generally, taking things from people's homes?" the general continued, working himself up to a temper. "You're shameless rascals, who besmirch the honour of the Republican Army! What will the people think, when they return to their homes? What will they think of the honesty of the police? Now this must stop, and the evildoers shall be disciplined!"

Having dismissed the culprits, the general remained in the room, with an orderly. He came up to the cupboard and looked at himself in a mirror on the wall. His gentle eyes caught sight of the watch. He picked it up and examined it with the same careful attention as he would certainly give to the weighing of the pros and cons of every question submitted to him. Then he put the watch back into place, in the exact place its owner had put it. He was so careful one might think his honour would be hurt had the watch been moved the weest distance from its old place.

The general returned to his seat and bade the orderly to go out and fetch some second lieutenant in. Hardly had the soldier gone when he rose and quickly strode over to the cupboard. Without bothering to look at himself any more in the mirror, he reached for the watch and dropped it into his pocket. It was done so quickly I could hardly follow his movements with my eyes.

When the second lieutenant walked in with a fat black leather briefcase he found the general in his former seat calmly drumming his fingers on the table. The clock struck, its chime ringing like laughter. The general was utterly unruffled and his features reflected his philosophy, "A bad thing done without any witness isn't a bad thing at all. It may even turn out to be a very good thing, for myself!"

The second lieutenant seemed to know his business. Although no order had been uttered, he sat down at the table, opened his briefcase, took out a writing pad and waited, with his pencil ready. The general started dictating, "First, the military police have indulged in plunder. This is the reason of our setbacks. Stern measures are needed."

The general rose and paced back and forth. I locked at his pocket. The watch made a quite visible

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VIET NAM AND THE WORLD AT LARGE

DRVN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN PROTESTS CAPTURE OF CUBAN FISHING BOAT

THE spokeman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam condemned on Dec. 2 in a statement the Venezuelan reactionary administration's brazen seizure of the Cuban fishing boat *Alecrin*.

The statement said: "On November 20, 1968, the Cuban fishing boat *Alecrin* was operating in international waters in the Caribbean Sea over 180 kilometres off the Venezuelan coast when it came under sudden and fierce attack by warships of the Venezuelan reactionary administration. As a result, the boat was heavily damaged and serious body harm was done to its crewmen. The said Venezuelan warship then compelled by armed force the Cuban fishing boat to anchor at the Venezuelan coast.

"The above piratical act of the Venezuelan reactionary administration constituted a serious challenge to the Cuban people and world public opinion and a gross violation of international law. It was part of the U.S. imperialists' scheme for provocation and aggression against the Republic of Cuba.

"The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam fully support the legitimate demand of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba and strongly condemn the buccaneerish deed of the Venezuelan reactionary administration, lackey of the U.S. imperialists.

"The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government insist with firmness that the Venezuelan administration release at once the fishing boat *Alecrin*, compensate Cuba for the losses, set free the Cuban sailors and strictly respect the right of the Cuban fishing boats to move freely in the international waters in virtue of international laws and practice."

Lao Patriotic Front Statement on U.S. Stepped-Up Bombing in Laos

THE Khaosan Pathet Lao (Pathet Lao News Agency) has just released a statement of the Lao Patriotic Front on U.S. stepped-up bombing in Laos, the full text of which follows:

Over the past fours years, the U.S. imperialists, using warplanes of various kinds, have been constantly intensifying their raids and chemical sprayings on the liberated zones of Laos, committing monstruous crimes against the Lao people.

In defiance of the strong repeated protests of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front and the Lao Patriotic Neutralist Forces, the U.S. has obdurately been piling up its crimes against the Lao people.

Since the beginning of November, when the U.S. had to halt unconditionally its bombing on the whole territory of the DRVN U.S. aircraft of all types including B 52 strategic bombers have been conducting raids of unprecedented savagery against the free areas through the length of Laos.

Within five days ending Nov.7, some 457 bombing or chemical spraying sorties including 31 by B 52s were flown against liberated areas of Lower Laos and Xieng Khoang province in Upper Laos.

Also on Nov.7, 20 attacks of F.105 and F.4H jets were made against Khang Khay town and its surroundings.

Besides, repeated fierce bombings were carried out by Thailand-based F.105s and B 52s against many villages in Donghèn, Muongphin and Tchepone districts (Savannakhet province) for three concecutive days ending Nov.7. These missions resulted in 35 civilians killed and 39 others wounded, mostly aged people, women and children.

From Nov.1st to 13, U.S. aircraft mounted repeated bombings and chemical sprayings on Phukout and Phuse areas, Vientiane province, killing or injuring many inhabitants and destroying vast crop areas, many houses and pagodas.

In face of these atrocities, the Vientiane clique of traitors has not only striven to shield the odious crimes of their U.S. masters but also taken delight in them. In an attempt to justify the U.S. barbarities, Prince Souvanna Phouma has even uttered off-repeated slanders against the Lao Patriotic Front and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. But this has only exposed for everyone to see the traitorous nature of the Vientiane clique and their subservience to the U.S aggressors.

It is clear that the cessation of the U.S bombardments on the whole territory of the DRVN constituted a great victory for the Vietnamese people in their resistance to the U.S war of destruction and, on the other hand, a strategic defeat for the U.S. imperialists. It not only has confounded the U.S. stooges in Saigon but in Vientiane as well.

However, the U.S. imperialists keep intensifying their war of aggression in South Viet Nam and threatening North Viet Nam, while seeking ways and means to delay the quadripartite Paris conference. They have also been stepping up their air raids against the free zone of Laos as a co-ordinated action. This is a positive proof that the U.S imperialists are not prepared to give up their aggressive schemes against Laos but are trying to stave off heavier failures for their agents.

The escalation of the U.S. bombing in Laos does not point to the U.S. strength. It is just the frantic throes of a grievously wounded beast. They will only lead to U.S. further isolation and stiffen the Lao people 's resolve to inflict on it still more ignominious setbacks.

The Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front strongly protests against the U.S. stepped-up bombing against the free zone of Laos and considers it a serious violation of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos and an encroachment upon the independence, sovereignty and neutrality of Laos.

The LPF Central Committee emphatically reiterates once again its position as follows:

The Lao issue is one of U.S. intervention and aggression. Since the U.S. has been interfering in the internal affairs of Laos, carrying out a neo-colonialist war of aggression in Laos in the form of a "special war" and sabotaging the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, it must stop all acts of intervention, aggression and sabotage. The Vientiane administration must put an end to their policy of serving U.S. intervention and aggression. The U.S. must strictly implement the 1962 Geneva Agreements

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Vientiane Authorities' Slanders Refuted

AT the end of last November, the Vientiane authorities cooked up the story of "the presence of the North Viet Nam army" and "North Viet Nam prisoners-of-war" in Laos.

Viet Nam News Agency was authorized on Dec. 3 to completely refute this brazen fabrication by the Vientiane administration. It was a trick of the U.S. and its henchmen to cover the intensification of the U.S. bombardments on the Lao territory in gross violation of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, VNA said.

The Whole World On Our Side

The U.S. Must End Its Viet Nam War of Aggression

FOLLOWING the great victory of the Vietnamese people, which was U.S. unconditional bombing halt on the whole territory of the DRVN in November last, a new international movement to support fighting Viet Nam has been mounting in all parts of the globe. Numerous demonstrations, meetings, teach-ins and marches have taken place in many countries. Protests against the stubbornness of the U.S. and its Saigon lackeys who have been delaying the Paris quadripartite conference have been made public.

— At the Presidium meeting of the *World Peace Council* from November 11 to November 13 in Lahti (Finland), the Viet Nam question was first and foremost on the agenda. Mrs. Isabelle Blume, Coordinating Chairman of the WPC, and other delegates attached great importance to the victory of the Vietnamese people, regarding it as the biggest contribution of our time to the defence of world peace.

— The Secretariat of the *International Union of Students* (IUS) has met in extraordinary and enlarged session to acclaim the great strategic achievements of the Vietnamese people and consider measures to step up the student movement to support Viet Nam. It extended in a declaration warm welcome to President Ho Chi Minh's appeal an l the statements of the DRVN Government, the South Viet Nam NFL and the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces. It called on its member organisations to further broaden and push up in each country, each continent and on a world scale the movement to give political, moral and material support to the students and people of Viet Nam until their final victory.

— In France, on November 14, making clear the responsibilities of the French communists in the Viet Nam problem, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the *French Communist Party* published a statement stressing that the FCP would keep up its struggle to force the U.S. imperialists into completely ending their war of aggression in Viet Nam, recognizing the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, withdrawing U.S. troops from South Viet Nam and guaranteeing peace and independence to the glorious Vietnamese people.

— At the initiative of the *French Peace Movement*, over 400 representatives of French and Italian mass organisations held on November 17 a meeting in Grenoble with representatives of the Vietnamese people. Mrs. Cecile Fournier, Secretary of the Peace Movement in Grenoble, and Mr. Gianotti, Secretary General of the Peace Movement in Torino (Italy), reported on the multiple activities undertaken by the French and Italian peoples to support the Vietnamese people. Mr. Gianotti emphasized: "The victory of the Vietnamese people in their fight against the U.S. aggressors is also our victory. We Italians stand at the side of the Vietnamese people led by President Ho Chi Minh."

— In the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Khmer people have repeatedly displayed their growing sympathy and solidarity with their Vietnamese neighbours. In an interview granted to the World Federation of Democratic Youth, Yim Dith, President of the *Khmer Royal Socialist Youth*, declared:

"The people and youth of Cambodia unreservedly side with the Vietnamese people who are heroically fighting against the U.S. aggressors, NFL with the South Viet Nam NFL and the DRVN. Our solidarity with this real Viet Nam is dictated by our own principles, namely the right of each people to settle their internal affairs without foreign pressure or outside interference. The Vietnamese have equal rights with the Americans and any other peoples to have institutions of their own choice. Nobody is entitled to deprive them of such a right."

— In the Scandinavian countries demonstrations and "Weeks of Support for Viet Nam" have been held in many provinces. On November 17, more than 3,000 people took to the main street of Stockholm (Sweden) carrying placards reading: "U.S., get out of Viet Nam!" "U.S. imperialists, murderers!" "Viet Nam will win!" The *Swedish youth* demanded immediate recognition of the DRVN by the Swedish government. It condemned the stubbornness of the U.S. and urged that the latter stop its war of aggression in Viet Nam, and scrupulously respect the sovereignty of the DRVN.

U.S.-Saigon Stooges Squable Again

ACCORDING to Western news reports, bitter bickering has developed again among the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration and the puppet Tran Van Huong cabinet is tottering. On Nov. 22, the puppet "Senate" asked 5 cabinet members to testify before it and cast a vote of non-confidence against Foreign Minister Tran Chanh Thanh and Education Minister Le Minh Tri. On Nov. 27, Information Minister Ton That Thien tended his resignation but the Saigon Senate urged Huong to retain him in office until Nov. 30 when he was to appear before the Senate for a testimony. On Nov. 28, Nguyen Ngoc Linh, Director of Viet Nam Press, official information organ of the puppet administration, was discharged, and the post was then cumulatively held by the Press director.

According to *AFP*, there is every likehood that further resignations (from the Huong Cabinet) would be handed in and even Tran Van Huong himself is reported to have been contemplating a step out.

AFP commented that these developments had highlighted the serious "instability" of the puppet administration and were causing visible unrest in Saigon at a moment when the Thieu Ky-Huong triumvirate was hard-set to cope with three major issues: the sending of its representatives to Paris, the political crisis in Saigon and the precarious military situation on all South Viet Nam battlefields.

Mention should also be made of the powerful movement for peace restoration and for the ousting of the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration, a tool of the U.S. imperialist aggressors, which action is gaining in strength and scope among students and other sections of the people all over South Viet Nam.

Military Operations:

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adversary 80 GI's put out of action, 6 helicopters downed and 6 armoured cars set ablaze.

Next day, in Go Thap (24km West of Tay Ninh) the patriots intercepted a puppet paratroop unit, killing or wounding 200 men. On the same day, early in the afternoon another major combat took place near **Ben Cau**, 35km Southeast of Go Thap, and resulted in 400 GI casualties. Three helicopters were shot down in this battle. On Dec. 2, Western news agencies reported an attack in force by the patriots in **Ca Tum** (43km North-Northeast of Tay Ninh) against two puppet troops whose losses included a helicopter downed.

Following the complete destruction of a U.S. force nearly the size of a battalion in **Chei Moi** (56km West-Northwest of Saigon), another U.S. battalion was hellifted into the same area *GPF* said. On Nov. 28, this unit was assaulted in a violent 30 minute battle: its CP was destroyed while some 100 GI's were put out of action, 2 helicopters shot down and many weapons seized by the PLAF. Meanwhile, other Liberation fighters silenced a 10-gun artillery site 6km further to the Southeast.

In the same Saigon area, the PLAF showed much punch in **Long An** province where, in a 5-week period from Oct. 26 to Nov. 15, they put out of action 1,315 adversaries among them 350 GI's and South Korean mercenaries, shot down 8 helicopters, destroyed 11 cannons and sank 4 war vessels. On Nov. 26, they stormed a big market place 35km from Saigon and punished about a dozen thugs of a group of "pacifiers." On Dec. 2, GI's of the 9th Division were engaged about 30km South-Southeast, and those of the 25th Division, 25km West, of Saigon.

On Dong Nai river, Northeast of Saigon, 9 enemy vessels and barges were sunk on Nov. 9, 16 and 24.

"EMERGENCY PACIFICATION PROGRAMME" FOILED IN DIEN BAN DISTRICT, SOUTH OF DA NANG: 640 ADVERSE TROOPS WIPED OUT

TRYING to race against time by pushing up their "emergency pacification programme" in key areas around principal bases and GI's and along main arteries, since mid-November, the U.S. command has deployed a major force composed of a U.S. marine regiment, a regiment of puppet regulars, a battalion of South Korean mercenaries and many companies of puppet field police, into the district of **Dien Ban**, about 20km South of Da Nang and 10km West of Hoi An provincial capital. It met with a tough resistance offered by guerillas and regional troops who, between Nov. 16 and Nov. 26, inflicted on it losses estimated at 643 killed or wounded including 368 G.I.'s and South Korean mercenaries, 13 helicopters and planes shot down and 6 armoured cars destroyed.

On Nov. 26, the urban centre of **Vinh Dien**, capital of the district, was taken by storm just after midnight and throughout the day the patriots held it firmly, beating off all enemy reinforcements in spite of an intense bombardment. They killed, wounded or captured 265 adversaries. This was the end time in to days they seized control of this centre.

Between Nov. 17 and Nov. 23, in the coastal provinces of central Trung Bo, from Hai Van Pass to the Northwest of Da Nang to Deo Ca Pass, North of Nha Trang, the PLAF put out of action 3,000 enemy troops including 1,000-odd G.I.'s and South Korean mercenaires, shot down or destroyed 30 planes and helicopters, wrecked 27 military vehicles and 12 cannons and seized a large quantity of arms and materiel.

Close to the 17th parallel, the PLAF operating in Quang Tri province, between Nov. 20 and Nov. 25, wiped out 200 adverse troops mostly GI's, destroyed 4 tanks and sank 2 landingcraft of the LCU type. On Nov. 28, a violent assault was mounted against the U.S. Marines at Sa Mun, near Highway N° 9, 28km West-Southwest of Dong Ha: about 100 G.I. casualties after a hand-to-hand combat.

LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT...

(Continued from page 6)

on Laos, scrupulously respect the sovereignty, independence, unity, neutrality and territorial integrity of Laos. The internal affairs of Laos must be settled by the Lao peoples themselves in conformity with the 1962 Geneva Agreements and the present situation in Laos, without U.S. interference. First and foremost, the U.S. must cease its bombing raids against the liberated zone of Laos so as to create conditions for the Lao people to settle their own affairs among themselves.

The LPF Central Committee calls on the Co-Chaimen and all the well-meaning member countries of the 1962 Geneva Conference on Laos as well as the peace- and justice-loving governments and mass organisations throughout the world to condemn these abominable crimes of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen against the Lao people, and take effective and prompt measures to stay the bloody hands of the U.S. With special earnestness we appeal to them to support the reasonable position of the Lao Patriotic Front regarding the settlement of the Lao problem, which is consistent with the legitimate aspirations of the Lao people and all other peoples who love peace and justice.

If the U.S. and its hirelings obstinately pursue their war of aggression in Laos, they must bear full responsibility for all consequences arising therefrom. The fact that the Lao people and armed forces have since the beginning of the 1967-1968 dry season wiped out nearly 20,000 enemy and blasted to pieces 150 U.S. aircraft is a severe warning to the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys.

No matter what difficulties, hardships and sacrifices still lie ahead in their just struggle, the Lao people and armed forces will persevere in their patriotic fight to gain complete victory over the U.S. imperialists and their confederates.

On Dec. 1st, the DRVN Foreign Ministry voiced in a statement its "full support" for the above statement of the Lao Patriotic Front. "As a signatory to the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, the DRVN government insists that the U.S. immediately stop bombing and strafing the areas under the control of the Lao Patriotic Front and the Patriotic Neutralist Forces", the statement said.

The Gold Watch

(Continued from page 5)

bulge on his well-pressed trousers.

"Second," he continued, "in view of what was said above, the curfew should continue to be enforced in this area. Then, fighting or no fighting, the ward should be destroyed. By artillery, not air bombing. Absolutely no air bombing."

The second lieutenant put the writing-pad back into his briefcase. The general rose and looked at himself in the mirror. He gently brushed a few specks of dust off his trousers, stroked his hair, and strode out.

As I walked back to my parents, I saw canvas-covered lorries rumbling along the streets. What was there under the canvas? Most certainly lots of refrigerators and TV sets. What more? Only Heaven knows.

I returned to where the refugees were crowding but the whole night, did not sleep a wink. At any moment, the artillery might open up.

Then, the guns started booming. The earth shook. Women cried bitterly, children wailed, men cursed. Police ran right and left, ordering them to shut up.

When morning came, police rounded up all the "victims of Communists bandits" and a few self-styled "representatives of the ward" called on them to sign a resolution to be sent to the "President", denouncing the Vietcong for using artillery to destroy their homes! Now the full meaning of the general's recommendation: "By artillery, not air bombing. Absolutely no air bombing." dawned on me.

It was at that moment that a Jeep came, the driver honking its horn and making the crowd step aside for a passage. On it was the general. It seemed as though the whole happening, as it was, had been pre-arranged by some authentic judge. How I wished I could speak at that moment! I would tell the people everything. I was sure the watch, on which my mother's name was engraved, was still in the general's pocket.

The general mounted a platform and addressed the crowd. His voice was as warm, and he looked every bit as gentle and honest as he did yesterday evening. He spoke about the lofty virtues of the soldiers of the "Republican Army" and their selfless struggle for freedom, equality and fraternity for all.

I decided that under the circumstances to keep silent would be a shame, and that I would find a way to confront him with his larceny for all my dumbness.

The general had finished speaking. He stepped down from the platform and bodyguards crowded around him. It took me much effort to come near him. When I rose and looked at himself in the mirror. He gently brushed a few specks of dust off his trousers, stroked his hair, and strode out.

As I walked back to my parents, I saw canvas-covered lorries rumbling along the streets. What was there under the canvas? Most certainly lots of refrigerators and TV sets. What more? Only Heaven knows.

I returned to where the refugees were crowding but the whole night, did not sleep a wink. At any moment, the artillery might open up.

Then, the guns started booming. The earth shook. Women cried bitterly, children wailed, men cursed. Police ran right and left, ordering them to shut up.

When morning came, police rounded up all the "victims of Communists bandits" and a few self-styled "representatives of the ward" called on them to sign a resolution to be sent to the "President", denouncing the Vietcong for using artillery to destroy their homes! Now the full meaning of the general's recommendation: "By artillery, not air bombing. Absolutely no air bombing." dawned on me.

It was at that moment that a Jeep came, the driver honking its horn and making the crowd step aside for a passage. On it was the general. It seemed as though the whole happening, as it was, had been pre-arranged by some authentic judge. How I wished I could speak at that moment! I would tell the people everything. I was sure the watch, on which my mother's name was engraved, was still in the general's pocket.

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THANH PHUONG

(Extract from *Liberation Literature*)

Military Operations

A major PLAF victory in **Song Mao** (200 km East-Northeast of Saigon and 100 km Southwest of the big U.S. Cam Ranh base) and a series of successes against U.S. troops, especially those of the First Air Cavalry Division in **Loc Ninh** and **Tay Ninh**, North and Northwest of Saigon, are the highlights of the past week's military actions, said reports from South Viet Nam.

On the night of Nov. 25 to Nov. 26, the PLAF completely overran the enemy military base in Song Mao where they wiped out a regimental HQ and put out of action a battalion and a company of infantry, a squadron and a detachment of armoured cars of puppet Division 23 as well as a U.S. air cavalry company. Some 1,000 U.S. and puppet troops were killed, wounded or captured and 4 heavy guns destroyed.

A series of battles around Loc Ninh, about 120 km North of Saigon, inflicted serious losses on the enemy. Between Nov. 27 and Nov. 29, 700 U.S. and puppet casualties were listed and 60 armoured cars destroyed in the course of 10 engagements in a 6-km radius from Loc Ninh, and on Dec. 3 the 3rd Brigade of the U.S. First Air Cav. is reported by Western news agencies to have sustained "the heaviest losses in a battle" since the beginning of this year.

In the Tay Ninh sector, in a 3-week period from Nov. 6 to Nov. 28, the First Air Cav. was badly mauled and lost, apart from 600 men put out of action in various skirmishes conducted by village guerillas, 3 battalions, 6 companies and 2 platoons destroyed or decimated, and 36 planes and helicopters shot down.

Also in the sector around **Saigon**, nearly 400 GI's were wiped out in 4 battles on Nov. 13, 15, 20 and 27, while in Saigon itself, home-guards intensified their activities with punishment meted out to traitors, war criminals and aggressors.

In the **Da Nang** sector, on Nov. 25 the PLAF again occupied and held the Vinh Dien urban centre (20 km South of the city) for most of the day, wiping out the garrison and beating off enemy reinforcements, putting more than 260 U.S. and puppet troops out of action. It was reported that the enemy "emergency pacification programme" in this area of Dien Ban district sustained from Nov. 16 to Nov. 26 nearly 650 casualties including 370 GI's and South Korean mercenaries, 13 planes and helicopters brought down and 6 armoured cars destroyed.

SONG MAO BASE TAKEN BY PLAF: ABOUT 1,000 U.S. PUPPET CASUALTIES

ON the Saigon—Nha Trang railway, at 200 km from Saigon to the East-Northeast and 100 km from Cam Ranh to the Southwest, the **Song Mao** military base, H.Q. of a puppet regiment, controls a narrow corridor between the mountain edge and the sea, sole passage for the rail and the route linking the coastal provinces of Southern Trung Bo. On the night of Nov. 25 to Nov. 26 the PLAF launched a violent surprise attack against Song Mao and entirely overran it after less than one hour's fierce fighting, completely wiping out the adverse forces stationed there: the H.Q. of Regiment 44, puppet Division 23, a battalion and a company of infantry, a squadron and a detachment of armoured cars, 30 U.S. "advisers" and technicians of this regiment and a U.S. First Air Cavalry company, totaling more than 1,000 men killed, wounded or captured, 4 heavy guns and many military installations. They also seized a large quantity of arms and material.

LOC NINH SECTOR: 700 U.S. AND PUPPET TROOPS, 5 COMPANIES WIPED OUT, 60 TANKS AND ARMOURED TROOP CARRIERS DESTROYED IN 3 DAYS

THIS strategic centre situated at 118km from Saigon to the North, in the province of Binh Long, was the scene of new PLAF successes.

Development in the 3 days ending Nov. 29 were marked by fire-fights including several major combats against elements of the U.S. First Air cavalry, the U.S. 11th Armoured Cavalry and puppet Regiment 9. Results: 5 enemy companies (including 2 U.S. infantry and one armoured) written off, 700 men killed, wounded or taken prisoner, 60 tanks and armoured troop carriers destroyed, 3 helicopters shot down and many weapons seized by the PLAF.

On Dec. 3, the Liberation fighters made a surprise attack on elements of the 3rd Brigade of U.S. First Air Cav. helilifted to a landing zone 18km East—Southeast of Loc Ninh. Western news agencies reported that the Flying Horsemen ran into a withering fire of automatic arms and mortars which caused them losses described by *AP* as the heaviest ever sustained by the First Air Cav. since the beginning of this year.

Further South, on the night of Nov. 19 to Nov. 20, the PLAF assaulted a U.S. encampment at **Binh My** (40 km North of Saigon) wiping out the CP and the signal camp, putting more than 150 GI's out of action, destroying 4 tanks and 2 bulldozers and shooting down a helicopter.

TAY NINH AREAS: FIRST AIR CAV. BADLY MAULED, WITH 3 BATTALIONS AND 6 COMPANIES DESTROYED OR DECIMATED AND 36 PLANES AND HELICOPTERS SHOT DOWN

ON Nov. 22 at a point North of **Ta Xia** (34km Northwest of Tay Ninh and 120km from Saigon) a PLAF heavy attack took a toll of 150 from the U.S. First Air Cav., *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported. Two days later, on the night of Nov. 24 to Nov. 25, in the same area, the patriots violently charged a U.S. force nearly the size of a battalion and virtually wiped it out after only 10 minutes of bitter fighting: 400 G.I.'s were killed or wounded in this action.

On Nov. 27, at 15km from Tay Ninh to the Southeast, a counter-sweep by PLAF regional troops cost the

(*Continued page 7*)

SOUTH VIET NAM NLF ORDERS YULE AND NEW YEAR DAY'S TRUCES

THE Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation in a statement on Dec. 5 announced the suspension of military attacks on enemy troops on Christmas and New Year's Days.

The statement read:

"For the past years, U.S. puppet and satellite troops who have been serving as U.S. cannon fodder have been denied peaceful and happy reunion with their families on Christmas and New Year's Days, major festive occasions in so many countries.

"As in the previous years, prompted by its unswerving humanitarian policy, its respect for the customs of our people and the people of other countries, and its deep concern for the legitimate feelings and desire of our compatriots, the American people and other peoples as well as the majority of U.S. puppet and satellite troops and in order that our people, the U.S., puppet and satellite troops have facilities and enough time to prepare for the above festivities, the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation decides to suspend military attacks on the U.S., puppet and satellite troops:

"1—For three days on the occasion of Christmas, from 0.00 hour December 24, 1968, Indo-China time, that is 1.00 hour December 24, 1968 Saigon time, to 0.00 hour Dec. 27, 1968, Indo-China time, that is 1.00 hour December 27, 1968, Saigon time.

"2—For three days on the occasion of New Year's Day from 0.00 hour December 30, 1968, Indo-China time that is 1.00 December 30, Saigon time, to 0.00 hour January 2, 1969, Indo-China time, that is 1.00 hour January 2, 1969, Saigon time.

"On this occasion, the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation calls on all our fellow-countrymen and the People's Liberation Armed Forces to scrupulously observe the above order for suspension of military attacks, and at the same time keep constantly on their guard, expose all enemy misrepresentations of the Front's order, stand ready to foil all schemes and acts of sabotage and provocation by the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys as well as their scheme to take advantage of the Front's order; assist and provide all facilities for the soldiers and personnel of the South Viet Nam puppet administration to rejoin their families and celebrate Christmas and New Year's Day, and allow the American troops and troops of U.S.-satellites freely to attend Christmas and New Year celebrations.

"Our policy is very humane.

"Our position is very clear and just.

"But the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen are by nature very obdurate, cruel and perfidious. That is why, our entire people and army must constantly keep up their fighting spirit, and nurture no illusion about the enemy, fight continually and persistently, with the determination to frustrate all schemes of the enemy, and to record yet bigger and more all-round victories in our advance toward complete victory. Only in this way can we achieve real independence and freedom, genuine peace and a happy life."

GIAI PHONG Press Agency Statement on Puppet Release of POW's

Giai Phong Press Agency announced that it was authorised to declare the following concerning the so-called "release of Viet Cong P.O.W's":

"It is merely a usual trick of the U.S aggressors and the puppets designed to camouflage their odious crimes and their inhuman atrocities, such as torture, massacre and imprisonment, against South Vietnamese patriotic fighters and civilians captured by them.

"It is also a clumsy farce of the U.S. aggressors to varnish their Thieu-Ky-Huong valets who are hated and scorned by the Vietnamese people and progressives round the world."